

August

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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*Click to Check-Out these Slide Images
from Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery*

<https://cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4014coll16/search/page/1>



**Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada**

**Convention 2020
19th International Convention**

**June 11-14, 2020
in Cleveland, Ohio, USA**

*Make your plans for the 2020 Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada!
June 11-14 at the Embassy Suites in Beachwood Ohio (on the east side of Cleveland). Presentation
proposals will be accepted until December 1, 2019. Confirmed and planned so far:*

- * A Magic Lantern Extravaganza with a wide variety of magic lantern performances on Saturday night**
- * "Sliding into the Present: Four Contemporary Artists Re-Imagining the Magic Lantern"**
- * A Master Class in Magic Lantern, with Terry Borton**
- * "Secrets of Success in Magic Lantern Performance"**
- * A presentation at the Cinematheque, an amazing movie theater associated with the Cleveland Institute of Art**
- * A pre- or post-conference outing to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**
- * And more -- join us!**

**Brian Rogers
411 Discovery Road, Port Townsend WA 98368
(907) 460-0969 cell**

Fund-raising for the Fleshman Collection

From Steve Barnes

thesteve4@yahoo.com

Members of the Magic Lantern Society that attended the 2016 Convention in New Orleans were the first to see the Robert Fleshman Collection of Victorian era optical devices and parlor amusements. Much of the collection was displayed on tables in the center of a small sound stage at the University of New Orleans Nims Center for Entertainment. A large portion of the collection was held, mostly un-assembled in crates and boxes of loose parts behind-the-scenes in the Center's restoration shop. We would like to again thank the MSL for their \$700 donation (given after the 2016 Convention) that we used as seed money to help get us this far.

WOW! Much has happened since October 2016. To date, most of the cleaning and archiving so far has been handled by a fantastic group of dynamic UNO film department interns and community volunteers. Now, three years later, more than 50 significant items are on display. All are rare and many are operational. It's amazing what a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of cleaning and a whole bunch of Renaissance wax can do.

The University of New Orleans Foundation is launching its first annual Fleshmen Collection campaign to help support and accelerate the preservation and exhibition of

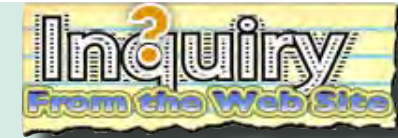


the collection and to dive into achieving the priorities outlined in the attached Internet Campaign link.

I hope to make everyone in the MLS aware of this campaign because, in a way it's something we too are most interested in. Please share the link with friends and associates who have an interest in the optical devices of the Victorian era and Dawn of Cinema history and spark their interest in this exceptional endeavor.

<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/MAGICLANTERN>

Steve Barnes
Senior Volunteer, Archivist
Fleshman Collection / New Orleans



Museum Display

From Anna E. Tucker

Good afternoon,

I am the project coordinator for a new museum opening in New Orleans next year, and I have some questions about potentially displaying a magic lantern in our exhibition galleries. Would you have just a few moments this week to field questions about this? Perhaps Friday at 10:00 a.m. (ET)?

Thank you!

Anna

Anna E. Tucker, Project Coordinator
anna@msje.org / 504.252.0713

Opening in New Orleans in 2020

*www.msje.org <<http://www.msje.org>

From David Evans

Good Afternoon Anna

Thank you for your enquiry about a magic lantern display in your new museum.

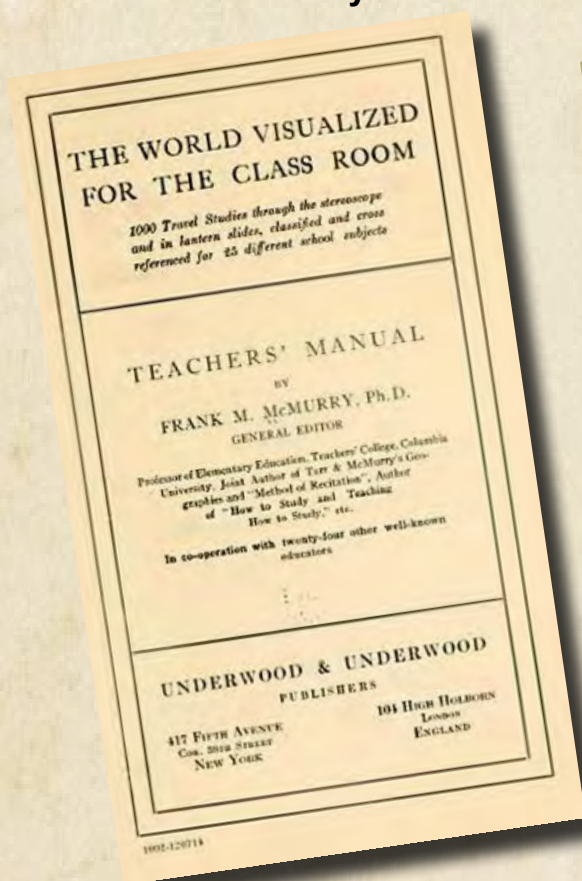
I have passed your message on to one of our members in New Orleans who may be able to help you with your project. He may well be in touch with you shortly, but if for any reason you need additional help do get back to me.

Best wishes for your exciting new venture.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

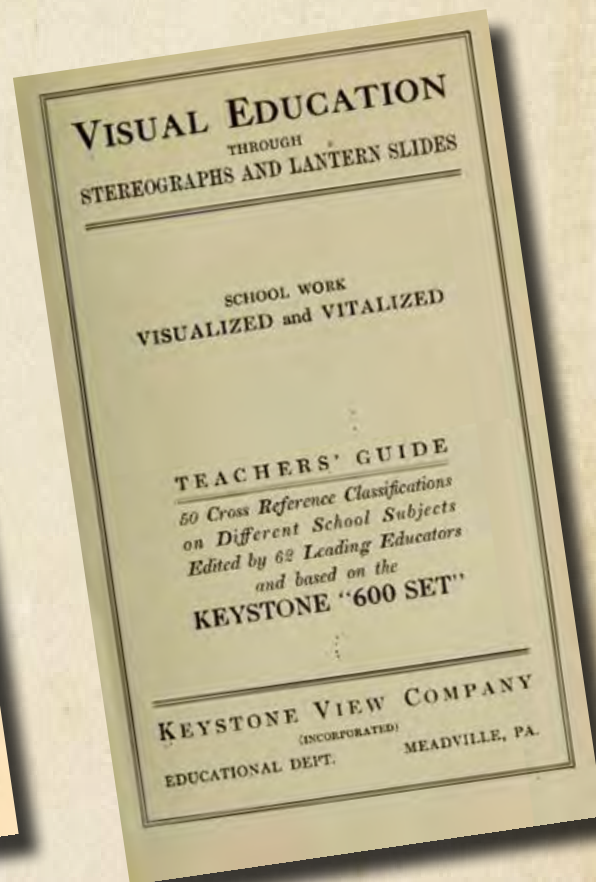
Lantern catalogs available on Internet Archive:

From Ron Easterday



The world visualized for the classroom; 1000 travel studies through the stereoscope and in lantern slides, classified and cross referenced for 25 different school subjects; teachers' manual

<https://archive.org/details/worldvisualizedf00mcmu>



Visual education through stereographs and lantern slides; school work visualized and vitalized; teachers' guide: 50 cross reference classifications on different school subjects

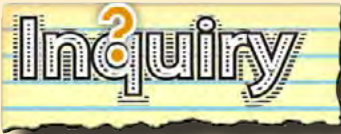
<https://archive.org/details/visualeducationt04keys>



The Lundy Travel Bureau

**Travel Bureau
Story to continued
in the September
issue of the E-pub**

From Tim Hughes



From Member

From Sylvia Alting van Geusau

Dear David,

I was wondering if someone of the members know more about the slides that were used as projections on back cloths in theatre. In the brochure of G. Gilmer there is a page of Decor Lumineux <https://archive.org/details/GilmerLanternCatalog1900/page/n109> including an image in which a triunial is used to project a cityscape. Alongside to this I am also very interested if people have slides that were used by artists themselves to project their sketches on the canvas. In the literature there are some mentions of panoramists that used a magic lantern to project their sketches on the canvas but just like the decor lumineux case I have never came across slides that were used for that purpose. Hope there is someone who can help me!

Best wishes,
Sylvia

From David Evans

Dear Sylvia

Thanks for contacting me - always good to hear from members!

You no doubt know about Brenograph slides, used in cinemas as stage background images on which other material could be projected. We have several in our collection.

We will include your request in the next E-Publication and hope that someone is familiar with the subject you describe.

We have several members who are specialists in panoramas and might have information on your topic.

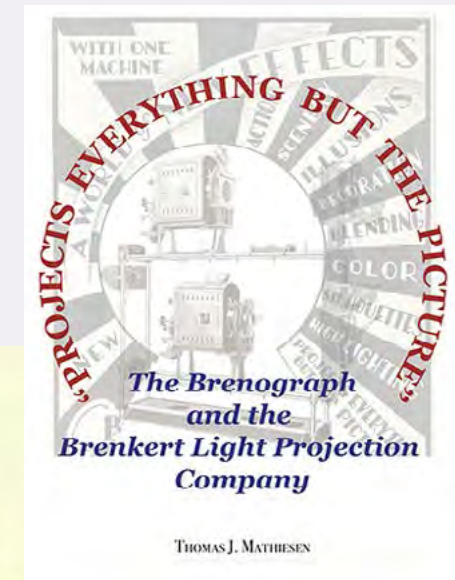
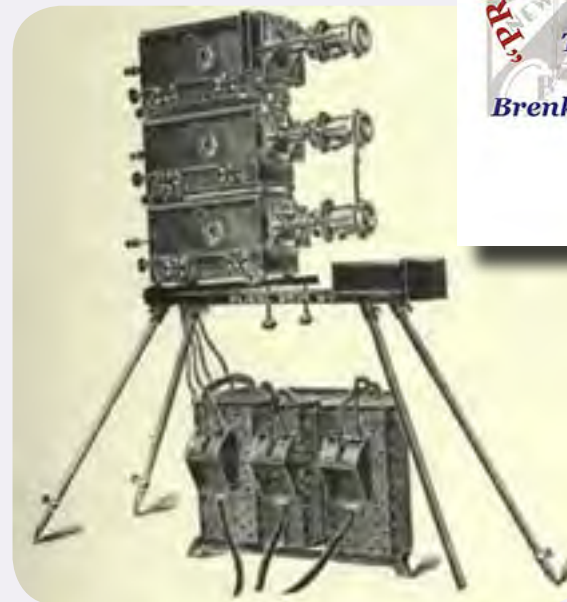
Let us hope so.

Kind regards
David



From "The Brenograph and the Brenkert Light Projection Company" by Thomas J. Mathiesen

The triple Stereopticon was used for "pose plastique" presentations in which a performer dressed in white tights would pose in front of a screen on which the various scenes and effects were projected: the upper lantern projected motorized effects such as falling snow, fire, flying birds or butterflies, and so on while the two lower lanterns crossfaded between scenes. Thirteen motorized effects for these "poses plastiques" were offered on p. 60 of the Kliegl Bros. Catalogue K (1922), and each of the projectors in the double or triple units could be equipped with slide carriers designed for standard lantern slides (3.25" x 4") or larger slides (4.75" x 5.375" or 6.25" x 5.875").



http://fwembassytheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Complete_booklet_web.pdf

Magic Lantern Kaleidoscope

From James Vendeland

jlv6@att.net

Dear Sir,

I am writing you for some advice and recommendations regarding the purchase of an antique Magic Lantern projector and slides. I am a collector of 19th century kaleidoscopes and have just acquired a "Darker" Magic Lantern Kaleidoscope Lens, English c 1880. (attached are 2 images of this Kaleidoscope)

I am now looking for an antique Magic Lantern projector to which I would be able to attach this kaleidoscope lens. I have in mind a Conic Magic Lantern made by Ernst Plank c 1868. Would that projector be compatible with my lens? If so, would it be easy to attach or would I need to purchase an adaptor to attach the kaleidoscope lens? If the Conic Magic Lantern would not work, can you recommend others that would?

I would also like to know if a rack-slide with a wooden frame and containing fragments of coloured glass, beads, etc with a handle would work (see third attached image) with my Kaleidoscope lens, and where I might be able to purchase on-line such slides. My interest is more in the mandalas and designs these images would produce on a screen rather than telling a story with pictures of places or people.



Being a novice in this area, I would appreciate any assistance you could offer me.

Sincerely,
Jim Vendeland

Cleveland, Ohio
email: jlv6@att.net

Dear Jim

A very fine acquisition.

I have the E P Catalogue of 1903, but it does not mention the Conic. On the whole, Plank was a manufacturer of tin plate toy lanterns but did make some more substantial ones as well. You are going to need a substantial one for your purpose with the kaleidoscope. The first thing you will need to do is measure the diameter of the screw thread on your kaleidoscope, with a micrometer, and then establish the number of threads to the inch. The British on the whole used Imperial measurements, whereas the Germans would probably have used Metric, so a Plank lantern might not be compatible with your unit. I do not know whether Darker was consistent about screw threads, or whether they produced different sizes to go with different lanterns. You really need to find a lantern with the same thread and diameter as your kaleidoscope so that the two will fit together. I have several British and German lanterns, but my kaleidoscope does not fit any of them! You may have to have an adapter made up in the long run. The optical threads are very fine, so general engineers may not be able to match them.

Regarding the glass bead slide, yes, that is what should be used with the kaleidoscope.

continued next page

Kaleidoscope continued

The results will be most impressive! There is no source for these that I know of. I suggest we include your request in our next E-Publication (August) in the hope that one of our members has one for disposal.

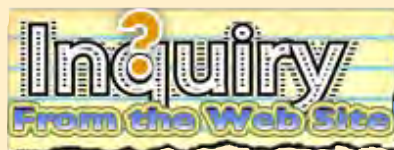


Also search on eBay, maybe your local photographic society might have a Wanted section in its newsletter. The British magic lantern society would be worth contacting too, as one of their members might be able to help.

We wish you luck, and do let us know how you get on. Our 2020 Convention will be held in Ohio - maybe you could demonstrate your kaleidoscope there?

Regards, and than you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



From TAHIR SHAH

mangorains@aol.com

Hello!

I have enjoyed your site and found it very useful -- so a big thank you!

My grandfather was the writer and lecturer, Sirdar Ikbali Ali Shah.

He is listed on your site. See image below.

I am writing a book about him (I am a writer too), and am searching for details of his lectures etc etc.

There's a wonderful brochure of him from the early 1920s. I found a copy at a university library in Iowa... but am hoping one day to find a copy for our own family archive.



**From
Afghanistan of the Afghans**

Do you know if there are places to search (libraries or for sale), for magic lantern ephemera and photos?

I have a few of my grandfather's glass slides and hope to republish them in the future.

With warmest wishes,

Tahir Shah

Research Enquiry, Ikbali Ali Shah

From David Evans

Hello Tahir

Sounds like a very interesting project. Please let us know when your book is available.

We will add your request to our next E-Publication in case any of our members has more information about him.

EBay is the most obvious place to search for images and ephemera, but I'm sure you know about that. There are also dealers in antique books, manuscripts etc on the Internet, I'm sure you know about that too! We have a presence on Facebook, so it might be worthwhile to post on that too.

Best wishes for your research, and thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

Magic Lantern in N. C. Wyeth Studio



From Terry Borton

Steve Barnes and Sandy Cranfill stopped by the Terry and Debbie Borton's new apartment in Kennett Square PA for a visit, and together they went to the nearby Brandywine River Museum of Art to see an exhibit of the work of N. C. Wyeth. Wyeth was the turn-of-the-century illustrator who created those fabulous pictures of Treasure Island and other children's books, and who was the father of

Andrew Wyeth. The exhibit opened with a large mural photograph of the Wyeth studio, which is nearby and is presented just as it was in Wyeth's day. There in the center of the picture was a magic lantern – the very magic lantern that Wyeth used to transfer photos of his working sketches to the large canvases that he actually painted on. Fun!

All the Best,

Terry



Spanish-American War Slides

WANTED

Set of 50 slides of Spanish-American War in the Philippines, “with special reference to the Philippines” ideally with reading. We have seen a Spanish-American War set that has a lot about the war in the Philippines, though it is not for sale!

We might do a lantern show in the Philippines if we can find the relevant set and reading.

Contact:

David Evans secretary-treasurer@
magiclanternsociety.org

Thanks!

David



This Firm Uses 100,000 Lantern Slides

From Reel and Slide September 1918

By E. P. Corbett

(Of the National Cash Register Company)

ONE hundred thousand lantern slides, on salesmanship, industry and general education, used by one firm in the United States !

That is the record of the National Cash Register Company. When John H. Patterson became president of the National Cash Register Company, he started to educate his employees. His theory of education was "teaching through the eye," and he made an especial hobby of his stereopticon collection. The collection was begun in 1891, and he has never lost interest in it.

It now contains over 100,000 slides, covering a broad range of subjects, such as landscape gardening, boys' gardens, industrial and health activities, welfare and improvement work, travel, advertising, and a multitude of others.

Employ Ten People

It is, perhaps, the best and most complete non-professional library in the world, and the slides are loaned to churches, schools, colleges, civic and commercial organizations, and individuals who will make general and good use of them. The company owns also 65 stereopticon machines, and these and sets of the slides are in constant use in all parts of the country. An astonishing number of requests for the equipment are received and filled.



Over a hundred thousand lantern slides are cataloged in the slide department of the National Cash Register Co.

The big N. C. R. Slide Department employs an average of 10 persons, all skilled in this work. They perform all of the operations required in the making of the slide. The original photographs are taken by the N. C. R. Photograph Department, and the Slide Department prepares the negative, makes the slide, colors, and finishes it.

The biggest job that the Slide Department ever accomplished was the preparation of the slides for Mr. Patterson's "Wake Up, America!" war lecture. Seven complete sets of the lecture, 700 slides to each set, were made.

Each and every one of the slides for this lecture is a separate masterpiece of workmanship. It was a special order, and particular pains were taken to make the work perfect. The slides are for the most part reproductions of official war photographs and cartoons. Almost all of them are exclusive.

First To Recognize Slides

Discussing the use of the moving picture at the N. C. R. factory, in a recent issue of Reel and Slide, we said that John H. Patterson was "probably the first business man to

give the movies a fair opportunity to prove their educational worth." He was also the first to apply the stereopticon to business requirements. He believes that it is worth while for an employer to go to any trouble and expense in the training of employees, and he first used the stereopticon in 1891, to throw reflections of parts of machinery upon a screen to illustrate the points he wanted to bring out to his employees. He has continued to improve this department, always keeping it abreast or a little in advance of the times. Most of the agencies of the N. C. R., which are located in every town and city of importance in the world, have complete equipment.

Information

Request

Lantern Called the Empire

From Steve Barnes

I thought the Society might be interested in the lantern & hopefully have some different ideas about the ODD (to me) extra body area under the lens I could see no reason for.

I bought this odd lantern off Ebay as it looked unusual to me. Mainly the extra part of the body under the lens. I was curious if there was a purpose for that area. Before buying I wondered if that area was for some sort of storage or special use, so I purchased it. The lantern is marked "the Empire" on a badge attached to the door. It has no chimney or illuminate (lamp) & after received I saw originally it had a reflector (missing) attached to the rear of the body. The body, minus feet, is 6 1/4 " x 2 3/4" including the extra body section of just under 2" long. With the feet, but minus the lens, it is 7 1/2" X 3 1/2". It has a 2 section lens with a 1 1/2" front diam. flared brass area holding the lens. The slide holder (broken at top connection to body) is 1 1/16". The extra area under the lens is hollow from the inside of the body (see photo). There is no openings except from inside the body. The bottom of the lantern is a solid piece of metal with the only holes being for the lamp & 4 air hole near the lamp hole. It is complete solid under the extra area under the lens. I would like to know if anyone has any idea why they would use the extra material & time to make this section, with apparently no reason I can figure out.

Steve Barnes



From David Evans

Hi Steve

Haven't been able to unearth anything much about The Empire. One was sold at Christie's in London in January 1992, simply described as a child's magic lantern, and there was one on ebay UK - <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/empire-magic-lantern-outfit-circa-1779434826> - as part of a complete boxed outfit. In both cases, and yours, the legend is in English, suggesting that, if by one of the German toy makers, it was for the British market, but no indication of a manufacturer's logo. Let us hope that one of our knowledgeable members has some information. Generally the box extension below the lens was used as storage for one of its parts whilst packed in its box. Maybe for a match box? Several lanterns had that design.



continued next page

Empire Lantern continued



I have the Bing catalogue from 1906 and the E Plank one from 1903. Both have a selection of toy lanterns with English type names, but neither mentions The Empire. If anyone has other catalogues, perhaps they would be kind enough to check through them and help with Steve's query.

Thanks for the information and pictures.

Regards

David Evans

Response from Ron Easterday

Steve, this is purely a guess, but perhaps the original illuminate was kerosene or some other fuel, and this extra space allowed for an extended fuel tank. Is it about the right height for the base of a kerosene burner base. That would be an unusual style illuminate, for sure, but my best guess.

Anybody else?

Ron

**Please share any
information
you might have!**



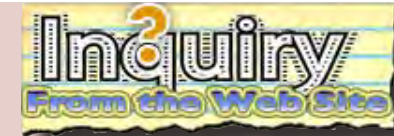
Group Northwest August Meeting



**Group NW Will be meeting
Noon
August 11, 2019
Portland OR**

- join us for a fun & informative time
- share your latest find or story

Please e-mail Larry for where and how to get there.
designerlc@comcast.net



Traveling Magic Lantern Show

From Dave Richmond

david.richmond@simpson.edu

To whom it may concern:

I have a Magic Later projector and several hand painted slides. I would like to write a grant to do some reattach on these items. My goals is to write research for a performance that would involve creating a traveling show, Professor Richmond's Traveling Magic Lantern Show. I would rework the projector for modern electrical projection and use the slides I have to present a reenactment of a traveling Magic Lantern show.

Please let me know if anybody would be willing to talk to me about this idea.

Sincerely,

David Richmond
Professor Emeritus of Art
Simpson College

Dear Prof Richmond

I suggest you contact our member Terry Borton <https://www.magiclanternshows.com/introducing.htm> as he has been doing travelling shows for many years. Yes, electrical illuminants are the way to go. I can recommend http://www.celsun.com/products_summary.html as a specialist supplier of modern LED based magic lantern illuminants.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

**Steve Barnes
Terry Borton
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Sylvia Alting van Geusau
Robert Reynoso
Dave Richmond
Brian Rogers
TAHIR SHAH
Anna E. Tucker
James Vendeland**

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry

Change of Member Information

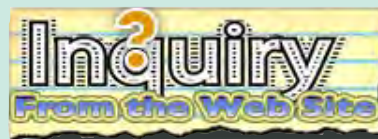
JOHN M Potter

j-b.potter@msn.com

We are moving into a retirement community, Julian Estates.

The Address is:
13305 94th Ave E Apt 228
Puyallup, WA 97373

John



Etienne Gaspard Robertson

From Robert Reynoso

Hello,

On a whim I searched for Magic Lantern Museums and found your website. I know some of the Magic Lantern history. Mostly of Etienne. I was curious about a couple things. Did Etienne charge for the Phantasmagoria? Was he doing it as a business or was it just kind of playing w/ the public. And what drugs did he give to the audience members?

And lastly, do you know if any of his slide of ghosts and devils still exist? Does anyone sell historical items of his?

Thank you,

-Robert Reynoso
www.spookshow.org

From David Evans

Hello Mr Reynoso

Thank you for contacting us, and a couple of interesting questions.

I think we must assume that Robertson did charge for his Phantasmagoria shows. He is described as a showman and presented to a great many people at a time in large theatres, so I think we may be safe in assuming that he was running a business. As to drugs, as far as I know this aspect of entertainment has not been mentioned in connection with Robertson.

His original slides would be highly sought-after today, and it is unlikely that any would appear on the market. I suggest you contact Martin Gilbert in UK who has an extensive collection of early Phantasmagoria slides in his collection, but it is quite likely that they would not be for sale. He does, however, sell some rare items from time to time, so you never know.

You can contact him through <https://www.sellingantiques.co.uk/mg/>

Do you have the book "Phantasmagoria" by the late Dr Mervyn Heard? If you do not, you really should locate a copy. Published by The Projection Box, Hastings, in 2006, ISBN-10: 1-903000-12-2 . It covers Robertson and all the other Phantasmagoria artists in great detail.

Good luck with your researches.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada